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HOUSE RESOLUTION 185  
By Robinson

A RESOLUTION to honor Thomas D. Benson on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate for the members of this legislative body to recognize exemplary Tennesseans as they conclude notable careers marked by accomplishment and devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS, on January 5, 1998, Thomas D. Benson retired from a distinguished career which included military service, two cabinet level positions in State government, and the practice of law; and

WHEREAS, a native of Ethridge, Tennessee, Tom Benson interrupted his college studies to enlist in the United States Air Force during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, after his honorable discharge from the Air Force, Tom Benson earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee and later a J.D. degree from the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Tom Benson served admirably as Commissioner of Revenue and as Commissioner of Economic and Community Development during an estimable career in State government that spanned the administrations of Governors Frank Clement, Buford Ellington, and Ray Blanton; and

WHEREAS, for several years, Tom Benson practiced law in Nashville; and

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WHEREAS, throughout his career, Tom Benson has enjoyed the love and companionship of his family, which includes his wife, Mary, their children Kathy and David, and their grandchildren Bailey, Jeff, Leslie, and Tyler; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his myriad accomplishments in his professional pursuits, Tom Benson has become famous – some would say infamous – as one of Tennessee’s best known amateur photographers; and

WHEREAS, by putting into practice his training as an agriculture major at the University of Tennessee, Tom Benson has earned statewide renown and acclaim for his incomparable Rainbow Farm blackberries; and

WHEREAS, Tom Benson will be fondly remembered for his many endearing qualities, which include his unfailing sense of humor and his genuine compassion for his fellow man; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we extend to Thomas D. Benson our congratulations upon a distinguished career and our best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.